

Minutes of the July 18, 2016, ECOS Board Meeting

President Brandon Rose called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Attendees:

Board Members: Earl Withycombe, Veronica Beaty, Michelle Pariset, Jon Ellison, Alex Kelter, Chris Brown, Rick Guerrero, Ralph Propper, Chris Brown, Guy Hall, Jack Sales, Anny Huang, Glenn Destatte, John Deeter, Mark Dempsey, Betsy Weiland, Michael O'Sullivan, Chris Lewis, Brandon Rose, Michael Viscuso, Margarita Colmenares, Dan Bacher.

Guests: Dale Steele , Jeff Spencer, Steve Hansen, Henry Li, Russell Rawlings, Lynn Goldsmith, Marty Maskall, Roslyn Eliaser, Sandra Wagner, Thomas Hall, Beverly Sales, Martin, Sandy Wagner, Tyrell Lassair, Molly Wagner, Matt Rowd

I. Agenda and Minutes

Motion (Kelter, seconded by O'Sullivan): that the agenda for the July 18, 2016, board meeting and the minutes of the May 23, 2016, board meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

II. Measure B

There was a presentation regarding "Measure B", an additional ½ cent sales tax to go toward transportation needs in Sacramento County sponsored by the Sacramento Transportation Authority (STA) requested by Sacramento City Councilman Steve Hansen. He was assisted by the head of STA and the Sacramento regional Transit District (RT) General Manager. Mr. Hansen claimed that he and others advocated that half the monies generated by the tax go to public transit, but had to settle for 30% due to opposition by public officials whose constituents allegedly prefer that roads get 70% of the proceeds. He asked "where was ECOS" when the issue was being considered.

The presenters alleged the tax measure calls for "fix-it first" (repairs) to roads before building new roads and that they should be "complete streets." They also suggested that the tax proceeds go toward maintenance of RT lines and vehicles. The RT GM said something about them acquiring more and more "Earth-friendly" vehicles as time goes by (although not necessarily from any new tax revenue) and that he laid off RT administrative staff to maintain existing service levels. The speakers all said that although imperfect, they worked to get the measure on the ballot because more money for RT was essential.

III. Fair Oaks EcoHousing

Project Manager Marty Maskall told us about a co-housing project with which she is involved that is to be built on 3.7 acres of land at 4025 New York Avenue in Fair Oaks. The site is close to the American River Parkway, Fair Oaks Village, Sacramento Waldorf School, Rudolf Steiner College, and Bannister Park. The co-housing project is to be infill development in a walkable neighborhood with on-site activities that reduce the need to drive, and will include energy-efficient buildings, environmentally-friendly building materials, reduce carbon footprint, fruit trees, organic gardens, and rain gardens (on-site water retention). The project had not been approved by the AIA/ECOS Smart growth Committee because it did not plan the requisite

amount of affordable housing. Ms. Maskall touched base with SHA representative to the ECOS board Veronica Beaty and alternative arrangements for affordable housing were planned. Ms. Maskall requested that ECOS endorse the project.

Motion (Ellison, seconded by Kelter): that ECOS endorse the planned Fair Oaks EcoHousing development. Approved unanimously.

IV. Reports

A. Treasurer

Earl Withycombe reported that we are currently close to expenditures as planned in our 2016 budget, but we can always use additional revenue. An understandable written budget report will be disseminated to ECOS board members.

Earl next reported to us regarding preliminary negotiations he had entered into with the administration of Breathe California regarding sub-letting office space from them at 909 12 Street in downtown Sacramento. Due the an offer to share a small portion of that space with a board member working on a nonprofit issue, it will cost us the same or less than our current rental office with improved amenities. Earl has also obtained the approval of our current landlord to allow ECOS to terminate that lease without repercussion.

Motion (Ellison, seconded by Beatty): that Earl and other members of the ECOS Executive committee have the authority to negotiate such a new lease at that location. Approved unanimously, except Withycombe and Propper abstained.

B. Transportation, Air Quality and Climate Change

John Deeter reported that the Transportation, Air Quality and Climate Change Committee reported on Measure B to the Executive Committee, which decided to be “neutral” on the issue (that ECOS would neither support nor oppose). The Committee is still working on updating the ECOS Transportation Vision and other issues. The next meeting will be August 4, 2016 at 2012 K Street, Sacramento, starting at 6:00 p.m. .

C. Land Use

Alex Kelter reported that the City of Sacramento is too timid about approving “vertical housing” (higher density buildings with more residents per acre). The Land Use Committee is working on advocacy toward “smart development” in the Natomas North Precinct and the Railyards project.

D. Habitat Committee

It was reported that Habitat 2020 continues to work on the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan, Mather Field development, and advocate for open space in Natomas North Precinct. They have been involved with the City tree ordinance, for which an environmental statement is to be issued on August 4, 2016.

E. Organizational Development

Jon Ellison reported that the Committee will be making recommendations for bylaw changes and

chair Melinda Dorin Bradbury has been leading an effort to present a workshop for people to learn how easy it is to make comments on Environmental Impact Reports under CEQA.

F. President

Brandon Rose reported that workshop for people to learn how easy it is to make comments on environmental documents is tentatively scheduled for August 15, 2016 at a location TBD. He also mentioned that sponsorships for both Environmentalist of the Year (EOY) and the Wild and Scenic Film Festival are being solicited and welcome. Michael O'Sullivan, who is chairing the EOY Planning Committee, requested nominations for EOY awards go to him and/or Alexandra Reagan.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.